



**PRESS RELEASE
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**CONGRESSMAN DAN BURTON APPLAUDS THE
PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO COMBATING AVIAN FLU
-CALLS FOR THE IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF MERCURY FROM VACCINES-**

(Washington, D.C.) Today, Congressman Dan Burton [R-IN-05] applauded President George W. Bush's commitment to safeguarding America against the outbreak of the H5N1 virus strain of the pandemic avian influenza (bird flu) and called on America's pharmaceutical industry to remove all traces of thimerosal (ethyl mercury) from their vaccines.

"One critically important section of the Administration's three-pronged strategy to combat bird flu includes enhancing America's domestic vaccine industry. Today, I once again call on Congress to pass meaningful and comprehensive vaccine industry liability reform, once the industry recognizes the dangers of mercury and removes it immediately" said Burton.

As Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Government Reform and Oversight Committee (1997-2002), and later as Chairman of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness (2002-2004), Congressman Dan Burton initiated numerous investigations and conducted several hearings on the dangers of thimerosal, a mercury-based preservative in vaccines, and its direct causal relationship in the rise of neurological disorders in the United States, especially in regard to the growth of autism in children and Alzheimer's in adults.

"As we prepare the United States for an avian flu outbreak, we must ensure the viability of America's domestic vaccine industry and ensure that the all vaccines Americans' receive are safe, and do not contain thimerosal, a known neurological toxin. I urge my Colleagues to move judiciously on President Bush's strategy, and I once again call on America's pharmaceutical industry to heed the dangers of mercury and remove all traces of it from their vaccines" concluded Burton.

*****TONIGHT, CONGRESSMAN DAN BURTON WILL CONDUCT A FIVE-MINUTE FLOOR
SPEECH ON THE AVIAN FLU STRATEGY AND MERCURY IN VACCINES.*****

For more information on Congressman Dan Burton's investigations and hearings, feel free to go to the Congressman's website at <http://www.house.gov/burton>.